



EARLVILLE COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 9

DAN JOYCE, SUPERINTENDENT
RICH FAIVRE, PREK/12 PRINCIPAL
415 W. Union Street PO Box 539
Earlville, Illinois 60518
815-246-8361 ext 12
815-246-8672 Fax

May 20, 2016

Mr. Dave Navecky
Environmental Analysis
Surface Transportation Board
395 E. Street SW
Washington, DC 20423-0001
Docket No. FD-35952

Dear Mr. Navecky,

This letter is in reference to the Great Lakes Basin Railroad Project, Docket # 35952. As Board President and Superintendent of the Earlville School District #9, we would like to express our concerns related to this project. The proposed route runs north and east of the town of Earlville, Illinois and would bisect our school district. Given this, we have concerns related to the following areas:

1. The line negatively impacting safe access and egress to and from our facility for our busses, parents and student drivers. Also, increasing drive times for our school community and the community's first responders.
2. Heavy machinery used to construct the line diminishing agricultural production due to compaction of the land and destruction of drainage tiles. This and proximity to a rail line will make property less desirable, thus less valuable. This all will negatively impact the value of the property within the boundaries of the District
3. In order for the line to be constructed, a great deal of rock and soil will need to be used to provide a level base for the line. This base will act as a barrier for water to flow, effecting drainage and causing flooding.

It is our understanding that no current railroad has signed off on this project and is not willing to use it. While we understand the need for a rail line to bypass the Chicago Metro area, if no rail lines will use it, what has been gained? What types of loads will be transported by our town, over our streams and through our farms? Our concern is that it will be shipments that will be dangerous, either flammable or toxic. We have grave



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concerns what a spill or worse a derailment would do to the quality of our air, land or water.

In closing, please consider our concerns when coming to a conclusion regarding this project. It appears on the face of it that there is value to this project but is there really? Should a group of investors that call themselves a railroad be granted eminent domain to build a rail line that no current rail carrier will use to transport unspecified shipments of possibly toxic material by our schools, our homes and over the most productive farmland on earth? To us, the answer is very clear.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Mr. Roger Torman, Board President
Earlville CUSD #9



Mr. Dan Joyce, Superintendent
Earlville, CUSD #9

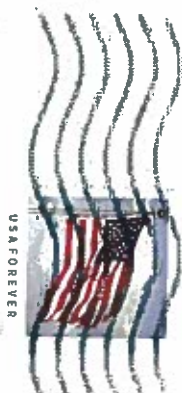
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